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House of Representatives

Pursuant to section 2 of House Resolution 479, 112th Congress, the House met at 2 p.m. and was called to order by the Speaker.

NOTICE OF REASSEMBLY

The SPEAKER laid before the House the text of the formal notification sent to Members on Thursday, December 27, 2012, of the reassembly of the House.

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, December 27, 2012.

DEAR COLLEAGUE: Pursuant to section 2 of House Resolution 479, and after consultation with the Minority Leader of the House, I have determined that the public interest requires that the House reassemble at 2:00 PM on Sunday, December 30, 2012. Further announcements will be provided by the Majority Leader's office.

Thank you for your attention to this urgent matter.

Sincerely,

JOHN A. BOEHNER.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer:
Loving God, we give You thanks for giving us another day.

The year, and the 112th Congress near completion, yet the work to be done remains. Bless the Members who gather in these waning days with wisdom, magnanimity, and a shared desire to serve our Nation at a pivotal time for us all.

Bless the efforts of all who have labored during these days to forge solutions to considerable problems facing our Nation.

In the end, may we continue to trust that You would not abandon those who put their trust in You.

May all that is done this day be for Your greater honor and glory. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. POE of Texas led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

PULSE OF TEXAS—MIKE: "CANNOT HAVE COOKIES WITHOUT THE MILK"

(Mr. POE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, "Can't have cookies without the milk. Tax reform and spending cuts, not one without the other." That was a comment on my Facebook page from Mike in Texas.

The American people get it. Why doesn't the government? Because Washington is addicted to spending somebody else's money. The House has already passed two bills that would avert the fiscal cliff, but as usual, the Senate is missing in action.

In August, we passed a bipartisan bill, an extension of current tax rates for all Americans through the end of 2013. Then, the week before Christmas, the House again passed legislation to avoid defense sequestration by cutting spending. But as usual, both bills lie in the graveyard of the Senate, where good bills go to die.

Mr. Speaker, it's time for the Senate and Senator REID to man up, consider these bills, and get serious about the root of the problem: spending. We got here by spending too much, not taxing too little.

And that's just the way it is.

AS IT WAS FOR THE ANASAZI, SO COULD IT BE FOR AMERICA

(Mr. KUCINICH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KUCINICH. The Anasazi were Native Americans whose culture dated back 2,000 years. They were the cliff dwellers who built into the sheer walls of canyons extraordinary places to live. Yet, in 1300 A.D., these cliff dwellers, these great architects of culture and civilization, mysteriously disappeared.

The people of this great Nation, the United States of America, are dwelling on real cliffs of fiscal insecurity: the cliffs of joblessness and low wages; the cliffs of mortgage foreclosure, homelessness; the cliffs of retirement insecurity; the cliffs of small business failure and investor uncertainty; the cliffs of violence at home and war abroad.

At a time when the government should be demonstrating its capacity to meet the practical aspirations of the American people for jobs, education, health care, and retirement security, the government instead would have America dwell at the edge of a fiscal cliff in a manufactured crisis to manufacture consent for a deal that would otherwise be unacceptable.

Leaders of both parties would do well to remember that the original cliff dwellers, as great as they were, disappeared.

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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